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By Mr. ESTABROOK—Jan. 10th, 1848—Read and ordered printed.

REPORT

Of the committee on Education and School Funds.

Your committee have availed themselves of such means as were within their reach to ascertain the amount and character of the resources from which the educational fund of the state is to be derived; and although positive accuracy could not be attained, yet sufficient has been disclosed to justify your committee in congratulating the convention and the state upon the amplitude of the educational fund, and its adequacy, when combined with such funds as shall be raised by tax in accordance with the provisions of the article herewith submitted, to bring a sound education within the reach of every child in the state through all coming time.

There are, according to "Lapham's Wisconsin," twenty-three hundred townships of land, of six miles square, within the territory of Wisconsin. Within each of these is one section of six hundred and forty acres, reserved and set apart by congress for school purposes.

The whole number of acres thus appropriated is one million four hundred and seventy-two thousand. Of this, probably about two hundred and fifty thousand acres lie within the populated parts of the state. The estimated value of these lands is about three dollars per acre.

Of the forty-six thousand and eighty acres heretofore granted by the United States to this state for the purposes of

a university, thirty-five thousand seven hundred and twelve acres have been selected by commissioners appointed at different times for that purpose by the legislature. Most of these lands have been judiciously located, and are of the choicest quality.

Your committee have, for greater convenience, subjoined the following table of estimates:

Area of territory, (square miles,)	83,065
No. of townships,	2,300
No. of school sections,	2,300
No. of acres in do.	1,472,000
Estimated No. of acres in surveyed portion of territory,	250,000
Average value of do. at $3 per acre,	$750,000
Interest on do. at 7 per cent.	$52,500
Estimated No. of children between 4 and 16 years, being 20 per cent. of population of 212,000,	42,400
Estimated cost of education per scholar per annum,	$3.00
Whole cost of education per annum, based on above estimate,	$127,000
No. of acres of university lands,	46,080
No. of acres selected,	35,712
No. of do. to be selected,	10,368
Estimated value of university lands,	$138,240

ARTICLE.

Section 1. The supervision of public instruction shall be vested in a state superintendent and such other officers as the legislature shall direct. The state superintendent shall be nominated by the governor, and by and with the advice of the senate appointed for such term of office, and with such powers, duties, and compensation as shall be prescribed by law.

Sec. 2. The proceeds of all lands that have been or hereafter may be granted by the United States to this state for

educational purposes, (except the lands heretofore granted for the purposes of a university,) and all moneys, and the clear proceeds of all property that may accrue to the state by forfeiture or escheat, and all moneys which shall be paid as an equivalent for exemption from military duty, except in time of war, and the clear proceeds of all fines assessed in the several counties for any breach of the penal laws, and all money arising from any grant to the state where the purposes of such grant are not specified, and the five hundred thousand acres of land to which this state is entitled by the provisions of an act of congress entitled "An act to appropriate the proceeds of the sales of the public lands, and to grant preemption rights," approved the fourth day of September, 1841, and also the five per centum of the nett proceeds of the public lands lying within this state, to which the state shall become entitled on her admission into the Union, (if congress shall consent to such appropriation of the two last mentioned grants,) shall be set apart as a separate fund to be called "The School Fund."

Sec. 3. The revenues arising from the school fund shall be exclusively applied to the following objects, to wit:

1st. To the support and maintenance of primary schools in each town and district, and the purchase of suitable libraries and school apparatus therefor.

2d. The residue shall be appropriated to the support and maintenance of county academies and normal schools, and suitable libraries and apparatus therefor.

Sec. 4. The legislature shall provide by law for the establishment of district schools, which shall be as nearly uniform as may be throughout the state; and such schools shall be equally free to all children between the ages of four and sixteen years, to whom the tuition shall be gratis. And no sectarian instruction shall be allowed in said schools.

Sec. 5. Provision shall be made by law for the distribution of the income of the school fund, among the several towns and cities of this state, for the support of district schools therein, in some just ratio, to the number of children and youth resident therein, between the ages of four and sixteen years.

Sec. 6. Each town and city shall be required, by law, to raise, annually, for the support of district, or primary schools therein, a sum not less in amount than one-half that received by such town or city respectively, from the income of the school fund, to be levied and collected as other town or city taxes are. And no apropriation shall be made from said school fund, to any city or town, for the year in which said city or town shall fail to raise such tax in manner aforesaid. Nor to any school district for the year in which a school shall not be kept up at least three months.

Sec. 7. When the population of any county in this state shall exceed twenty thousand in number, provision shall be made by law for the erection of an academy in such county, with male and female departments, and a normal school department for the education of teachers for primary schools.

Sec. 8. Provision shall be made, by law, for the estabment of a state university, at or near the seat of state government, and for connecting with the same, from time to time, such colleges in different parts of the state, as the interests of education may require. The proceeds of all lands that have been, or may be hereafter granted by the United States, to this state, for the support of a university, shall be and remain a perpetual fund, to be called the University Fund, the interest of which shall be inviolably appropriated to the support of the state university aforesaid.

Sec. 9. The secretary of state, treasurer, and attorney general shall constitute a board of commissioners for the sale of the school and university lands, and for the investment of the funds arising from the same. Any two of said commissioners shall be a quorum for the transaction of all business pertaining to the duties of their office. Provision shall be made, by law, for the sale of said lands, after the same have been appraised. And when the same shall be sold, and the purchase money shall not be paid at the time of the sale, the said commissioners shall take security for the payment of the sum that shall remain unpaid, in a mortgage upon the same, with seven per cent. interest, payable annually at the office of said treasurer. The said commissioners shall be authorized to convey said lands to purchasers by a good and suffi-

cient deed, and to discharge any mortgages which may have been taken as security as aforesaid, when the sum due on the same shall have been paid. The said commissioners shall have power to withhold any of said lands from sale when they shall deem it for the public good, and shall invest the moneys arising from lands that shall be sold as aforesaid and all other university and school funds in such manner as the legislature shall provide.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

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